

Barrie, Colonel Howard G

March 1917

(16)

National Arts Club
March 5, 1917.

Pres. R. A. Falconer,
69 St. George St.
Toronto, Canada.

Dear President Falconer:

On my arrival in New York, February 1st, I was booked to sail for England on the St. Louis of the American Line. The dislocation following the announcement of the U-Boat policy made some readjustments necessary and while waiting for my next sailing, I got into touch with several people in New York and Princeton who were keenly interested in Serbia. As I had already met some in Toronto who were interested, I felt justified in delaying further my departure in order to investigate the possibilities of this expression of interest. In the quest of evidence of the definite need in Serbia I consulted several committees and persons here in New York. The testimony of these workers was consistently in favor of help being needed. Madam Grouitch showed me her correspondence and this in itself indicates a justification for proceeding with the equipment and dispatch of a unit to the Serbian frontier. Among her letters is one from the head of the Medical Serbian Service, Col. Karanovitch whom I know personally as a man of excellent judgment. I cabled to the Serbian Legation in London and rather than reply by cable the Legation advises me that a written reply is being sent. The brief cable reply they have sent is friendly however to the proposal of sending a unit.

While seeking this information I discovered here in New York the Franco Serbian Hospital which by the enclosed note you will see approached me on the subject. On investigation I declined this offer as I considered the committee a most unsound one. What is relevant, however, is the fact that it possesses a physical equipment for 200 beds which is excellent in every way. It is only partially organized and its personnel is quite inadequate for the serious work contemplated by a hospital of this size. It has besides its equipment, the formalities all arranged, that is permissions from the French and Serbian Governments. Wishing to see this excellent outfit in good hands, I suggested that perhaps it might become more representative and assume the form of a British American Committee. The suggestion is being considered at present. My hope was in case the Franco Serb Committee agreed that a new joint committee made up in Toronto from your present committee with several representatives from Princeton might be willing to administer this Hospital and furnish the doctors and nurses. This is my first suggestion which is of course entirely dependent upon the

decision of the Franco Serbian Committee on the one hand and your reception of it on the other.

Quite apart from this another definite suggestion is that your committee might be willing to undertake a Canadian Mission to Serbia in view of the facts contained in this letter. Madam Grouitch with whom I have discussed both points, is insistent that in any case a new unit should be equipped. When in Toronto several friends quite apart from your committee, expressed to me their willingness to help so that it might not be difficult to add a few additional names to your Committee including several doctors. Should you be inclined to consider this, Madam Grouitch is willing to come to Canada and help with a public address or two. The details as to the cost are as follows: for a term of six months and a unit comprising six doctors, six nurses, three ambulance drivers, interpreter, cook, etc., about \$20,000.00 should be aimed at for immediate necessities. An additional \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 should be planned for as a safety margin and might be raised in the following six or twelve months. As is customary with such a unit, it would be possible to renew the term of service of its original members at the expiration of their first term or replace them with fresh workers as funds and circumstances warranted.

One thing appears certain, the oncoming of hot weather and the steady addition of troops to the Allied Army in the Balkans, constitute a sound basis for the unit.

Other things being equal, I would prefer to work in Serbia with the Canadian unit. If the matter is one of vital interest to your Committee, I shall be glad to render what assistance I can in getting it together. Please favor me with a reply at your early convenience, and believe me

Yours faithfully,

Howard G. Barron

CONFIDENTIAL MEMO.

Dear President Falconer:

Point 1, should, I think, be of a more confidential nature than the contents of my other letter, hence this enclosure.

Point 2 will be of value in defining financial responsibilities involved.

1. Lady Hendrie expressed to me her willingness to assist in any way. Mrs. H. D. Warren appeared particularly interested, both in Toronto and recently here in New York. I feel, however, that her presence on such a committee might lead to complications unless it were agreed to give her a pretty free hand.

Mrs. Trumbull Warren would be an excellent worker and in addition enlist Mrs. H. D. Warren without adding to the difficulty.

Miss Susie Little of Division Street would make an excellent secretary if she would consent to act. She has good executive ability.

2. Budget for six months

Six Doctors	- \$5,400.00
" nurses	- 1,440.00
Three motor drivers	- 600.00
Cook & interpreter	- 400.00
Three motor trucks	- 2,000.00
Tents	- 1,000.00
Passages	- 2,000.00
Personal outfits	- 1,300.00
Living expenses	- 4,000.00
Help hired in Serbia	- 1,000.00
Surgical Dressings, etc. supplied by numerous Red Cross Committees .Some of these items may be overstated but the general total would come out about \$20,000.00	

H. G. Barris

March 15th, 1917

Colonel H. S. Parrie,
National Arts Club,
14 Grammercy Park,
New York.

Dear Colonel Parrie:

I am sorry not to have answered your letter before this, but I had to consult several members of the Serbian Relief Committee, one of whom was out of town. I am sorry that we seem to be unable to give any promise of being able to co-operate in the plan you suggest. At present the subscriptions to the Relief Fund are coming in very slowly, and the results of a very wide campaign of advertising have not proved to be as successful as we had hoped. It would be out of the question, we all think, to raise the amount of money at present that would be required for such a unit for the six months, and of course if we were to organise such a unit we should have to be responsible for its maintenance until the end of the war. Had we known a year ago the kind of need that you suggest we might perhaps have used our organisation in connection with the University Base Hospital to supplement the Hospital work in Serbia, but for the last year they have undertaken to support the Red Cross work in general and it could not be diverted at this time.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President

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